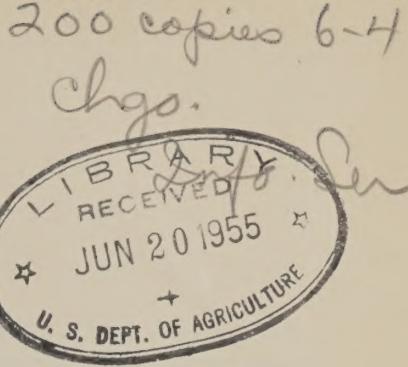


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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
Production and Marketing Administration
5 South Wabash Avenue
Chicago 3, Illinois



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MIDWEST INFORMATION SUMMARY

~~Confidential~~

~~For Administrative Use Only~~

June 4, 1946

To: State Offices, Production and Marketing Administration, Midwest Area
From: Walter W. John, Chief, Information Service, Production and Marketing Administration, Midwest Area, Chicago, Illinois

Walter W. John

This week's Midwest Information Summary is restricted to material obtained from the commodity branches in Chicago. The Washington summary was not issued last week.

Grain Branch

Corn - The special field purchase program is completed and the Chicago Branch office is working hard to get the stuff through for export and supplying processors. Up to May 30, 7.5 million bushels have been routed to Baltimore; 3.5 million bushels to Philadelphia; and 4.5 million bushels to Gulfport for export. CCC also has allocated 3.75 million bushels of the Bonus corn to dry millers for processing into corn products for export, and 2 million bushels to wet processors for export or to essential processors for making starch, etc. At the same time CCC took steps early this week to divert all the by-products of the corn allocated for processing into deficit areas in the Northeast and Northwest. The job moving the corn to ports or for processing has CCC working overtime.

So far CCC has released no wheat to millers for grinding except for export. None has been released for grinding domestic supplies of flour. There has been some discussion about releasing CCC wheat to maintain domestic supplies to millers provided they agree to release equal quantities of wheat from the new crop to CCC for export. No decision yet. Of the wheat now being harvested in Texas and Oklahoma, CCC is getting 50%.

The rye picture is this. CCC bought approximately 4 million bushels last year for UNRRA account and finished delivery early this year. Indications are that fairly substantial amounts have been exported by private interests even though the price was far above ceiling.

The only oats being exported are to meet feeding requirements on shipboard for livestock being shipped overseas to rebuild herds. Amounts very small. U.S.D.A. at Washington is buying oatmeal and other grain products for overseas delivery.

Dairy Branch

Creamery butter production in April estimated 91,180,000 pounds, was lowest on record since 1922. Turnings were 26 percent lower than in April last year and 39 percent below the 5-year average for the month.

Weekly report for the week ending May 23rd, shows butter production up 3 percent from the previous week but down 33 percent from the same week a year ago.

Production of American Cheese for April, estimated 61,975,000, increased 17 percent seasonally but was 25 percent less than April a year ago; 7 percent less than 5-year April average; and lowest for April since 1941. Weekly production estimate for week ending May 23rd, shows production up 4 percent from the previous week but down 16 percent from the same week a year ago.

Latest figures on ice cream production show a total production, January through March, of 133,150,000 gallons, which is 95-4/10ths percent over last year and 118-5/10ths percent over the 5-year average.

The following, just received from the Office of Economic Stabilization, is more complete than press and radio reports:

"An increase of 1 cent per quart in retail price of milk will take effect June 1, except in Arizona and New Mexico; retail price of butter will increase approximately 11 cents per pound with subsequent increases at monthly periods from August 1 to February 1, 1947; retail price of Cheddar cheese increased 6 cents per pound, but no change on other varieties except in hardship cases; evaporated milk increased 1 cent per can at retail; maximum prices of bulk fluid cream frozen at highest price received during first 15 days of May, 1946, but not less than 63 cents and subject to overriding ceiling of 77 cents in major producing areas of North Central states; ceiling prices of milk for manufacturing purposes frozen at November 1945 average plus 40 cents for milk testing 3.5 percent butterfat; sale of whipping cream prohibited after July 1; ice cream manufacturers permitted to reduce butterfat content up to 2.5 percent without price change, but volume production not to be increased because of this; shipments and sale of cream will be limited in June, July and August to amount shipped or stored during corresponding months of 1945."

Poultry Branch

Branch devoting much time to development of an egg price support program for balance of 1946. From the standpoint of policy and mechanics, the nature of program complicated by month to month rise in index of prices paid to farmers and the reflected changes in parity prices, as well as conflicts with ceiling price levels.

Conferences have been held by Branch representatives with container manufacturers and representatives of the Materials and Equipment Branch with respect to continued critical problem of securing adequate supply of containers for the British dried egg purchases. Completion of program being delayed due to difficulties, even with the aid of priorities from CPA. Assistance from CPA very limited because of tremendous demands for containers and materials used in their manufacture for other uses.

Dry egg purchases this week totaled 2,951,925 pounds. Add this to 55,080,785 pounds previously reported gives the total up to June 1. The Branch also bought 1,651,240 pounds of frozen eggs at the support price of 26-3/4 cents during the week.

U.S.D.A. announced Friday the dried egg purchase program had been increased an additional 12 million pounds to a total of 69 million. Government acceptances for 1946 through May 24 total 55,335,785 pounds. Dried egg purchases last week totaled 2,951,925 pounds packed in wooden boxes, drums, barrels and 14 pound cartons June delivery at \$1.05 per pound. Purchases frozen whole eggs under support announcement FY-5, totaled 1,651,240 pounds at 26-3/4¢ per pound.

Fruit and Vegetable Branch

Potatoes - Maybe you have been wondering where those potatoes are we have been telling you about. The rail strike delayed shipment, of course, for several days, just enough to let consumer demand pick the market bare, but movement since shipments were resumed has been heavy both from California and Southern producing areas. It takes about 7 days for shipments out of California and Arizona to hit Chicago and the midwest. Last Wednesday, May 29, California shipped 987 cars and on Thursday (Decoration Day) 908 cars --- both record days. These potatoes should reach us by the middle of next week and by the end of the week the Fruit and Vegetable experts here expect trouble.

In the meantime, shipments reaching the Chicago market this week have been large enough to break prices below ceiling. Prices dropped from \$4.00-4.17 ceilings on California's on Wednesday to \$3.65-3.80 Friday. Southern Triumphs dropped from a ceiling price of \$4.09-4.17 to \$3.70-4.00 Friday, with \$3.00-3.50 paid for spotted ones. The market was weak and further declines were indicated as buyers look ahead to next week and the anticipated deluge from California and other areas.

There is no reason to hold back on your potato promotion any more. We are sending you a Fact Sheet, some radio shorts and column fill-ins, and a special yarn to convince the fastidious that "potatoes are not fattening." The plentiful foods script for the week highlighted potatoes too. We'll keep on sending you material.

Tomatoes - Tomatoes showed a price increase on the Chicago market this week, but shipments have been heavy and a decline is indicated. The shipping holiday resulting from the rail strike gave consumers a chance to use up accumulated supplies but the channels are filled again and the Fruit and Vegetable folks here believe that by the end of next week, there will be too many tomatoes again.

Livestock Branch

The past week witnessed a very light movement of livestock to the big midwestern markets, with the result that prices advanced on many classes of stock.

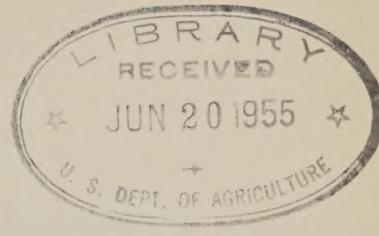
Small supplies were due in part to Memorial Day holiday, improved weather for working in the fields and to the vote of the Senate Banking and Currency Committee to end controls on livestock and meats. It is pointed out that farmers are not likely to market stock in normal volume if there is any possibility that ceilings on livestock and meats may be removed.

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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
Production and Marketing Administration
5 South Wabash Avenue
Chicago 3, Illinois



MIDWEST INFORMATION SUMMARY

Confidential
For Administrative Use Only

June 12, 1946

To: State Offices, Production and Marketing Administration, Midwest Area

From: Walter W. John, Chief, Information Service, Production and Marketing Administration, Midwest Area, Chicago, Illinois

Walter W. John

Highlights of the P.M.A. conference in Chicago next Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday will include the following major talks: (1) Secretary Anderson--general; (2) Under Secretary N. E. Dodd--production and conservation programs; and (3) Administrator Robert H. Shields--new school lunch act.

In general, conference will take up national programs, policies, and relationships--as related to field activities. Copies of the tentative program for the meeting were sent to you from Washington.

Container Situation in Midwest

The survey of the midwest area container situation has been concluded. Reports from your offices indicate that although some instances of shortages have been noted and the overall situation is "tight," it is generally satisfactory and improving. Revival of the wartime container bulletin and salvage program seems unnecessary. If any really serious shortages occur in your state, give us a call and we'll try to locate a supply for you from marketing centers.

Missouri, Michigan, Indiana and Ohio, the primary fruit and vegetable producing states, report that berry and fruit containers are generally available in adequate quantity. North and South Dakota and Nebraska report the egg case situation as difficult and that burlap potato sacks and wool bags are difficult to obtain. Relief from the burlap bag shortage is expected with settlement of labor difficulties in one of the more important manufacturing plants supplying that area. The tight egg case situation is being alleviated to some extent by use of paper cases and substitution of orange crates.

Dairy Branch

There are no actions in branch, pending, or laying claim to the 40-cent increase with producer price increase announced by O.I.C., by us, in the markets covered by Federal orders. Hearings have covered and will cover those areas where such action is necessary. Increases will not automatically reflect price changes. Areas likely to be covered: Cedar Rapids, Iowa; Dubuque, Iowa; Duluth-Superior (Minnesota and Wisconsin); Greater Kansas City (Kansas and Missouri); Quad Cities (Davenport, Iowa, and Rock Island, Illinois, and East Moline, Illinois).

Other dockets to be prepared on prohibiting sale of shipping cars and on buffer limitation orders, also in line with O.I.C. announcement.

With one qualification, no increase, 40-cent or otherwise, goes to producers unless and until U.S.D.L. holds hearing in any market covered by Federal orders...Then Department may or may not grant it--or less, or more. The qualification: In those markets where we have taken action, either hearings had already been held, or which was accomplished by suspension of part of pricing formula in the order, which action we can take without a hearing.

Shipping and Storage Branch

Surveys show all refrigerator cars were used while laid up by rail strike. In Midwest, Teamsters and truckmen have supplied good service in spite of electricity shortage caused by recent coal strike.

Western flour millers now getting ample wheat supplies. Flour movement in the Midwest and east were interrupted but will be heavy during June.

Enhanced lighting box and refrigerator cars to New York, on order; freight to Baltimore, Philadelphia, Calcutta, Houston, and India will still be off.

Labor Branch

The transmigration of Mexican farm labor slowed down by coal and rail strike. Migration is now progressing. By June 27, Mexican farm labor force in this country reported to be about 40,000---about 6,000 under figure set for that date.

Total foreign labor force in this country to date, 16,705. Of this total, 3,012 are Indians; 7,185 are Chinese; 4,306 Bahamians; 1,111 British West Indians; 1,001 Barbadians and 143 Newcomenlanders. Barbadians are in Florida sugar cane, and most Barbadians in western sugar beets.

Marketing Facilities Branch

Refrigerator car loadings for week ending May 26 were off because of a cold -- first week since January 12 that weekly loadings have been lower than last year. Loadings of perishables, 31.3 percent below previous week's loadings and 34.3 percent below last year. Loadings of fresh fruits and vegetables, 35.3 percent below previous week and 27.4 percent below last year. For week ended June 1, fresh fruit and vegetable loadings were largest reported for single week for past three years. Potato movement from California very heavy -- as many as 2,000 cars loaded out in one day.

Box car supply tightening throughout country. Demand for cars is coming from variety of sources -- for potatoes, melons, fertilizers. With harvesting, the weeks ahead of season, grain movement has started and should be heavy in June. Probable car shortages in some areas. Loadings of grain and grain products for week ending May 26 showed decrease of 17.9 percent from last week and 34.3 percent from last year.

Strangely, livestock car supply is tightening. Loadings for week ending May 26 were 10,120 cars -- decrease of 30.9 percent from last week and 26.4 percent from corresponding week last year.

Materials and Equipment Branch

Car shortage slowing evaporated milk output for famine relief.

At Branch request War Assets Administration set aside 50,000 tons of box milk for distribution by P.M.A. for emergency purposes.

Farm machinery production further delayed by lack of materials and strikes.

Due to plentiful supplies of pyrethrum, Branch has recommended export restrictions be removed. However, strikes are hampering production of white arsenic, raw copper, and copper sulfate needed for insecticides. Nicotine still short as will remain so.

At request of P.M.A., War Assets Administration supplied 2½ carloads of wire for emergency repair of fences damaged in flood area near Elmira, N. Y. Shipments made to dealers designated by P.M.A. Farmers will place orders with dealers.

Grain Branch

Officials have been meeting with grain warehousing industry representatives to consider requests for raising storage rates under Uniform Grain Storage Agreement. Rates apply to CCC loan and owned stocks of grain. Warehousemen say costs have gone up.

No information available yet regarding quantities of feed grains going to feed-short areas in Northeast and Northwest under voluntary program announced last week.

Decision to loan wheat to mills in consumer hardship cases should relieve acute-distress areas until now crop gets rolling in volume.

Exports of grain and grain products in 1945-46 will be close to 400 million bushels if June exports come up to schedule.

Special Commodities Branch

Preliminary work on 1947 bee goal program under way. Goal should approximate that of 1946, although prospective West coast lumbermen's strike may further lessen availability of lumber for beehives. Studies being made by BAE's Honey Section and Bee Culture Laboratory, if completed in time, should help determine desired increases in bee colonies for States important in production of legume seed. BAE's study deals with importance of bees in production of legume seeds in various States; Bee Culture Lab's study, with extent to which honey yields in seed-producing sections are lessened by crowding areas with more bee colonies than considered commercially profitable for honey production--in order to produce more seed.

Ice production in Southeast increased by 75 tons per day capacity at Richmond, Va., last week. Further increase of 55 tons per day expected next week from plant at Kentsville, Va., recently sold by Government to private company.

Two months' extension for purchase of 48 million pounds of tea allocated first six months of the year will be granted license holders to permit them to ship up to Nov. 30 for importation by January 30. Extension will enable importers to average price for better qualities, which are not available, with prices for lower grades that will be available later, and thereby enable them to come within price ceiling.

Normal prewar tapioca requirements, about 350 million pounds annually, were obtained from Netherlands East Indies. Prospects in near future for importing sufficient quantities to relieve civilian shortage are not encouraging. Substitute known as "minute dessert" has been developed and will continue to be on market in 1947.

Fish production through May 18 showed considerable improvement over April, but landings still about 12 percent below last year's record production. All ports, except Boston and Gloucester, showed substantial increases. Gloucester approximately same as last year. Boston landings off about 66 percent. Rapid improvement in Boston situation expected as result of recent agreement of boat owners and fishers to resume operations.

Cotton Branch

World cotton production in 1945 was smallest since 1923 -- only 2b.7 million bales -- 12 percent less than 1944 crop and 30 percent less than 1935-39 average. Most of 1945 reduction was the decrease of more than 3 million bales in U. S. Increase in 1946 cotton acreage over 1945 is indicated for Northern Hemisphere.

Sugar Branch

Third quarter (July 1-Sept. 30) sugar allocations probably will be announced latter part of week beginning June 10. On same day sugar allocations are announced, OPA probably will announce sugar rationing schedule for third quarter.

Cuban Sugar Commission, which left Washington May 30, has not yet informed U.S.D.A. when it will return to Washington. The Commission took new U. S. sugar offer back home for discussion with sugar interests. Cubans are disturbed over recently-introduced U. S. sugar legislation which, they claim, does not offer them large enough share of U. S. postwar sugar business.

James Marshall is acting director of Sugar Branch, following resignation of Earl B. Wilson, effective May 31. Wilson will continue as part time consultant during June.

Fruit and Vegetable Branch

Under California tree fruit marketing agreement more varieties of plums will be brought under regulation shortly.

In effort to increase production, price ceilings have been suspended on oil-leaf fruit wrapper and shredded oil paper. It appears that shredded paper will remain scarce.

Interim price increase granted on lumber to go into agricultural containers has been extended 30 days from May 31 to enable shuck industry to gather cost data to present OPA to make such price increase permanent.

Nine ceiling suspension, which was to have expired May 31, extended 90 days to August 31.

Referendums now being held in Florida on marketing agreements for citrus fruits.

By end of this week U.S.D.A. will have purchased approximately 2,000 cars of new potatoes, and purchases now running about 1,000 cars per week.

Potato shipments hit all-time high with 10,300 cars for week ending June 1. Central California in one day shipped 1,000 cars.

Poultry Branch

Washington and field Poultry Branch officials are meeting in Chicago this week to outline work program for next 12 months. Purpose of meeting is closer coordination of Branch activities between Washington and area offices.

Still too early for report of progress on culling campaign, but indications are that feed situation is doing the job.

Tobacco Branch

Meeting in Raleigh, N. C., June 6 and 7 to prepare plans for marketing quota referendum throughout flue-cured tobacco areas. Referendum around mid-July. Farmers will vote for one of three propositions: (1) Three-year quotas, 1947, 1948, and 1949; (2) one-year quotas, 1947; (3) no quotas.

Later in year similar referendum probably will take place in burley tobacco areas.

Compliance and Investigation Branch

John P. Castleberry of Cedar Hill Farms, Mariemont, Ohio, fined \$2,000 ---- violations of WFO 2 (butter).

Italian Cook Oil Corporation, Brooklyn, N. Y. Judgment by consent was entered in U. S. District Court perpetually enjoining and restraining this corporation and Dominic Cordiano, president, from using fats and oils in excess of quota in manufacture of any edible fat or oil product in accordance with WFO 42. Respondents ordered to make restitution of 1,122,071 pounds of fats and oils used in excess of quota.

Walter Handreck, trading as Greb Brothers Bakery, Pittsburgh, Pa., and William John Crick, owner of Crick's Bakeries, Carrick, Pa., charged with violations of enrichment provisions of WFO 1.

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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
Production and Marketing Administration
5 South Wabash Avenue
Chicago 3, Illinois



MIDWEST INFORMATION SUMMARY

~~Confidential~~
~~Administrative Use Only~~

June 20, 1955

State Offices, Production and Marketing Administration, Midwest Area

From: Walter W. John, Chief, Information Service, Production and Marketing Administration, Midwest Area, Chicago, Illinois

Main Branch

Walter W. John

A set-aside wheat from the '46 crop has been offered to Chicago CCC office but reports indicate some wheat now being harvested in southern Indiana and Illinois is moving to mills. Continental Mill at St. Louis has unloaded three cars from southern Illinois and other mills in Indiana and Illinois report receiving new wheat.

Chicago's CCC office has loaned 200,000 bushels to mills in the area and Minneapolis as reported loans of nearly two million bushels. The flour supply picture is looking up. CCC here reports a surprisingly small number of requests for loans of wheat by millers (only 25 to 30) in spite of the reports in press and radio of most mills closing down for lack of wheat.

Washington finds that the domestic flour situation should be easier in July as new crop fillings increase. Secretary Anderson in his press conference in Chicago last week reiterated his conviction that farmers will let go of their wheat in sufficient quantities, as the harvest moves north, to meet famine commitments and domestic requirements.

Flour production increasing recently, indicative of increased grindings for flour and feed... About 5 million bushels of CCC wheat have been "loaned" to mills to relieve acute flour-short areas.

CCC corn, also, may be supplied wet processors on exchange basis (possibly exchange oil for corn) to relieve acute shortages of starch needed by textile, paper, and other industries.

Our rice crop making good progress.

Cotton Branch

Cotton mill consumption increased during May, despite coal and rail strikes and seasonal tendency for mills to slow down during late spring and summer. With settlement of major strikes, mill buying of cotton has increased.

Cotton market buoyed by inflationary psychology that prevails on most commodity markets.

Fats and Oils Branch

Plans being developed to make more shortening, and salad and cooking oils available to household consumers in South and West during next three months...Intended to help relieve acute regional shortages of fats and oils resulting from reduced shipments of lard and fatback.

Labor Branch

An "all-section" delegation, accompanied by members of Congress, last week discussed with U.S.D.A. proposal to transfer foreign labor recruiting out of the Department. Delegation spokesman opposed transfer. They also requested 6-month continuation of foreign labor program. Resolution for this program was slated for early introduction in Congress.

Foreign labor recruiting now over 50,000 mark, with 34,237 Mexicans, 8,393 Jamaicans, 5,751 Bahamians, 136 British Honduras; 1,984 Barbadians, 647 Newfoundlanders, and 9 Canadians now in this country. As domestic farm labor market continues tight in northeastern area, an agreement is now being worked out with Canadian authorities for importation of additional Canadians.

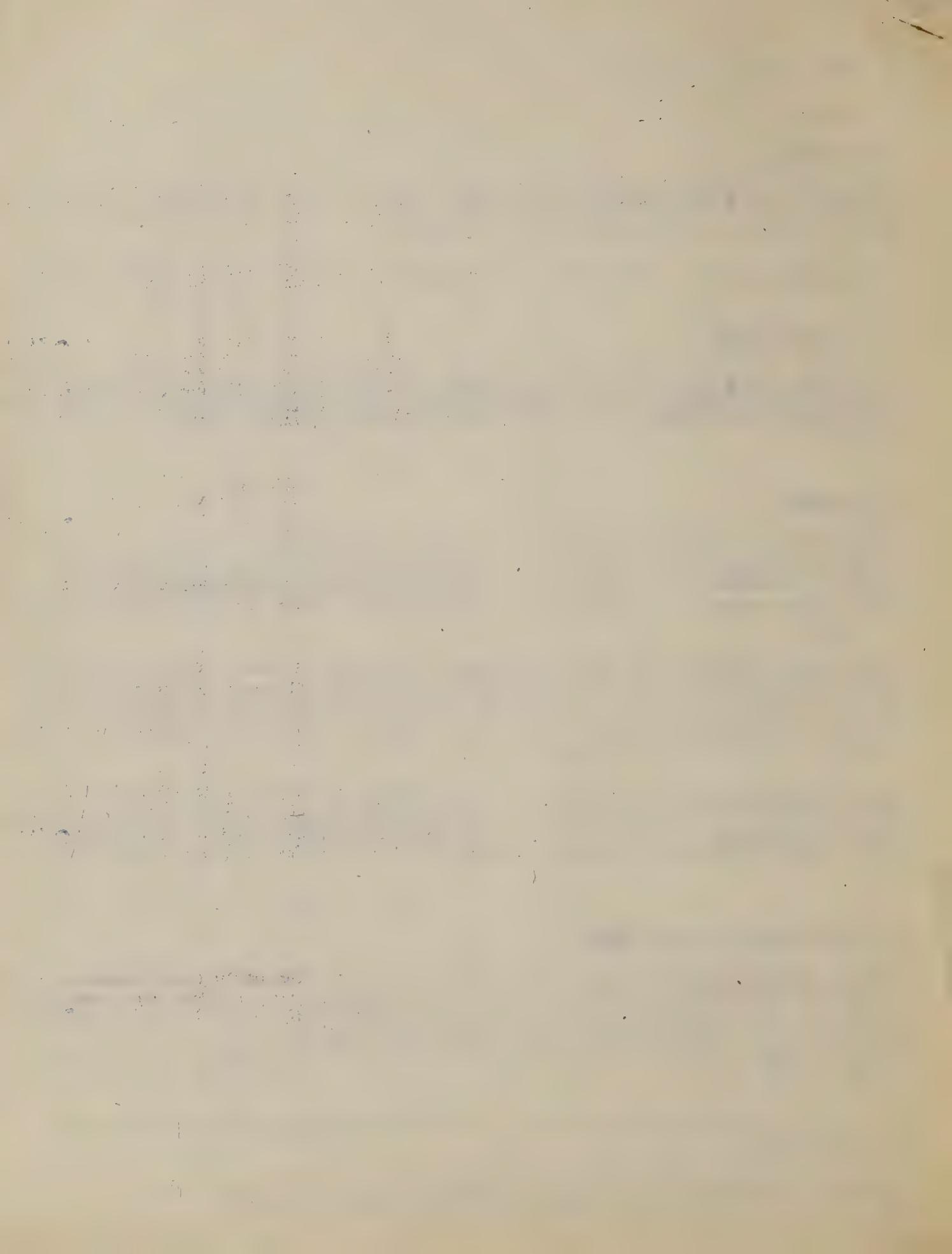
Labor Branch officials meet next week at Boise, Idaho, to discuss wage stabilization program with field officials. Later in week Labor Branch and Extension Service officials will meet at Denver to discuss foreign labor needs for coming harvest. All prisoners in war in farm labor utilization work reported to be moving to west coast embarkation ports.

Food Distribution Programs Branch

Abundant food program on potatoes getting into high gear, with early spuds becoming more plentiful in more areas and coming down in price. Abundant food program under way on peaches, with fact sheet out and radio being made for early delivery. (We're holding fact sheet for market developments.) CONSUMER TIME (NBC) program on spuds June 25; on community canning July 6; on peaches July 13 (at time peaches expected to be plentiful in many areas).

Branch cooperating with other agencies in plans for National Home Food Preservation Week, July 15-22.

Handbook on Community Food Preservation Centers due out of Government Printing Office July 12...probably offered as gift-in-gift on July 6 Consumer Time show.



Fruit and Vegetable Branch

Government potato purchases during week ending June 22 averaged approximately 700 cars daily. Total purchases this year to date approximately 12,800 carlots.

Potato market in Chicago has been firm over the past week. Some California long whites No. 1 selling above former ceilings with price range \$3.75-\$4.00. Liberal receipts of Missouri cobblers over the week-end (180 cars) brought prices of \$2.40-\$2.50. Kansas cobblers (34 cars on track Monday A.M.) brought \$2.50 to \$2.60. Both state products were selling well above support prices. One car of Arkansas Triumphs brought \$3.75. Firm potato situation reflects success of current purchase program and some consumer promotion. Government buying only a few cars now in Kansas and small lots in other midwest states; the big purchases being made on the Atlantic seaboard and in California.

Prices for peaches, cherries and plums took a sharp drop on Chicago's market last week. All selling below former ceilings. Georgia Golden Jubilees brought \$2.00-\$2.25 at Chicago Monday; Georgia Hileys, \$1.25-\$2.00 for one-half bushel, but the prices in retail outlets continue quite high for peaches, plums and cherries.

Support purchases begun this week---onions in Texas, cabbage in Kentucky and Ohio. Cabbage purchase in Tennessee largely over.

Fresh peas exempted from price control and ceilings suspended on California table and juice grapes. Canned fruit and vegetable prices on 1946 pack announced last week.

Georgia peach industry has requested extension of early season prices, claiming shipments this year are two weeks late. Fresh Apple Industry Advisory Committee, meeting with U.S.D.A., expressed satisfaction with early season prices, but requested increase in late season price.

Sugar Branch

Present forecasts indicate no appreciable change in probable sugar supplies until after first quarter of 1947.

Senate Banking and Currency Committee has favorably reported extension of Sugar Act of 1937 for 3 years (ending Dec. 31, 1945). House previously approved 1-year extension.

The 1946 "grind" of Cuban cane has been completed. Crop now estimated by OFAR at 4,450,000 short tons, raw value.

Tobacco Branch

Informal trade estimates vary widely on probable size of 1946 flue-cured crop. July weather can do much to raise or lower whatever June prospects might be.

Cigarette production and consumption holding at high levels with outlook for 1946 production of 310 to 320 billion cigarettes (tax paid withdrawals).

Poultry Branch

Regional conferences of Poultry Branch with field representatives being held to consider proposed revision of Standards of Quality and Consumer Grades for Shell Eggs, proposed buying grades, and proposed national quality improvement program. Meetings opened last week at Clarksburg, W. Va., and Columbus, Ohio. Dates of conferences: at Omaha, July 8; Portland, July 11; Seattle, July 12; San Francisco, July 15; Los Angeles, July 17; Atlanta, August 5; Memphis, August 6; Dallas, August 7, and Chicago, August 9.

Branch has notified driers that beginning June 25, and until further notice, purchases of dried eggs will be made only from driers who certify that they had paid producers an average of 30 cents a dozen for shell eggs. This follows notice effective June 14, that driers would have to certify that they had paid average of 28 cents instead of 27-cent price announced in original purchase program. This is not a raise in price support purchase programs and applies only to the procurement program for dried eggs.

Midwest Area Office reports that the trade is still packing eggs and selling for future delivery due to the advantageous spread in price and the general feeling that the egg picture this fall looks bad. Still a speculative market with the egg trade bearish and the speculators, bullish.

Country reports indicate egg receipts are still holding up very well but a falling off is anticipated in the near future due to the hotter weather.

Egg storage space in the midwest is still critical and while movement into storage is still taking place it is on a very selective basis.

All information to date on export containers for frozen eggs has indicated the trade's inability to obtain any under present specifications.

Midwest poultry market is still strong and while the movement has increased some it still is lower than demand. Some indications in spots in this area of a small amount of liquidation. Reports from southeast Minnesota and northwest Iowa indicate that when producers finally do move their poultry, they are moving whole flocks rather than just culling. The relatively high country paying prices on eggs at the present time are apparently going to keep poultry on the farm just as long as feed is available.

Dairy Branch

Dockets on Federal milk orders covering Cincinnati and New Orleans milk markets are in the mill...Will announce amendments that will permit full 40-cent producer price increase announced by OES May 29. That will make 14 Federal milk markets where U.S.D.A. has acted to permit that 40-cent increase, either by order amendment or by suspension of part of pricing formula. In the other 15 markets (there are 29) orders have pricing formulas that will reflect 40-cent increase, or almost all of it, without U.S.D.A. action. After these 14, Branch thinks no more U.S.D.A. action on OES 40-cent increase is necessary.

Dairy products continued firm. Unusually heavy demands for manufactured products exceeds supplies. Milk flow has reached seasonal peak, but production of manufactured products continues below normal and inventories light due to record consumption of fluid milk and cream.

Milk and cream markets, if anything, showed increased strength on record demands. Western butterfat prices higher in face of heavy storage stocks and possibility of ceilings lower than current values. Current strength based on anticipated fat shortage next fall and winter. Following 10¢ per pound advance on butter, 5¢ per pound on Cheddar cheese, and 35¢ per case on evaporated milk in wholesale ceilings, effective June 17, selling prices advanced full amount. Many shippers reported holding back in anticipation of possible lifting of ceilings July 1.

Materials and Equipment Branch

Branch has asked CPA to speed availability of bale ties to areas starting hay harvest. Manufacturers have agreed to ship bale ties immediately at about normal rate.

OPA predicts nail production will meet all construction demands.

Army will release 900 tons ammonium nitrite for immediate use on irrigated corn in Nebraska.

Starting July 1, TVA plans to provide 60,000 tons superphosphate for making general crop fertilizers...Two-thirds probably will go into Middlewest.

Copper sulfate supplies more critical because of work stoppages in copper industry. Copper sulfate needed urgently for protecting potato crop.

Marketing Facilities Branch

Refrigerator car loadings continue at record high levels, and refrigerator car supplies have tightened considerably. Some shortages reported in California. Movement of potatoes and cantaloupes from California heavier than estimated and will continue heavy next month. Georgia peaches now moving in volume.

Total perishable loadings for week ended June 8 were 33,751 cars, decrease of only 70 cars from previous week.

Boxcar supply tight throughout country. However, enough cars are getting into Northwest to move what grain there is to be moved.

Priority for cars loading grain from country points to terminals, effective on northwestern railways, reinstated June 15 to extend to June 30.

Grain and grain products loadings for week ended June 8 were 43,506 cars, increase of 10.7 percent from previous week and a decrease of 17.0 percent from same week last year.

Original June grain export target was 121 ships. Sixty-eight ships had sailed by June 18. It now appears that quota will be met, and many more ships will be cleared.

A large manufacturer of charcoal briquets (for fuel) complains that war food orders, restricting use of cornstarch, seriously threaten to cripple operations. Cornstarch is used as binder in briquets. This fuel used extensively in curing tobacco and heating refrigerator cars that haul perishable products during cold weather. Branch is cooperating with Tobacco Branch in effort to have CPA declare briquets essential.

There's been recent increase in requests to store frozen fruits and eggs longer than ten months allowed by WFO 111...The reason: Processors and bakers can't get enough cooking and baking materials with which to use eggs and fruit.

Special Commodities Branch

June 1 cold storage holdings of fresh and frozen fish estimated at 86,000,000 pounds, compared with 40.5 million pounds a year ago. Holdings in domestic cold storage plants increased about 10 million pounds during May. Volume of fish in storage expected to increase from June 1 until late fall, when production ~~xxxxxx~~ decreases seasonally.

Recent bulletin issued by National Association of Ice Industries gives results of annual survey of ice produced and sold during 1945. Following figures from the report provide comparison of production for years 1941-45:

1941	---	35,034,210	tons
1942	---	35,685,652	"
1943	---	43,000,695	"
1944	---	49,752,664	"
1945	---	52,583,675	"

Total 1945 plant capacity was 266,275 tons per day, increase of 17,799 tons above 1944. Natural ice moved in 1945 totaled 1,116,877, compared with 1,064,707 tons for 1944.

BAE report released June 10, 1946, indicates peppermint acreage to be slightly less than 1945, but considerably above 10-year (1935-1944) averages.

Approved: Amendment to WFB 66 limiting June and July production of malted grain to 50% of amount produced in June and July of 1945, and requiring each malted grain manufacturer to reduce his inventory of barley to 21% of amount used in production of malted grain during 1945.

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